

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Tennyson has written a new poem, whose title will recall an earlier one. It is "The Charge of the Heavy Brigade," and it is to appear in the next number of *Macmillan's Magazine*.

Joel Chandler Harris, the clever chronicler of Uncle Remus's sayings, has sketched out a serial story "The Romance of Rockville." He is also writing a story of old slave life in the South.

W. L. Stone is preparing for publication a volume containing the orderly book of Sir John Johnson during the Oriskany campaign, and a sketch of Sir John by his grandnephew, General John W. de Peyster.

Mrs. Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, the daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, is writing for the first number of *Our Continent* a sketch of her old home at Concord with some personal recollections of her father.

"Spartans, stoics, heroes, saints and gods," says Mr. Emerson in his *Contaray essay*, "use a short and positive speech. They are never off their centres. As soon as they swell and paint and find truth not enough for them, softening of the brain has already begun."

A London editor ridicules this cable message received in London before the lofty being it mentions sailed for those shores: "Will Wilde write poem, twenty lines, terms guinea a line; subject—sunflower or lily, to be delivered on arrival to order of —?" The price is fair from "hollow, hollow, hollow," but what will the poem be?

Miss Christina Rossetti's last volume did not, it must be confessed, sustain her literary reputation. Neither in conception nor in art can it be compared to her former work. There is not much painstaking about her poetry—it simply "comes." To a friend who asked if she had written any poems lately, she said: "I do not write poems—they happen to me; none have happened lately."

George H. Baker, the Philadelphia author and ex-Minister to Russia, is about to publish through Lippincott a volume of poetry with the strange and attractive title of "The Book of the Dead." The poems are all short and all relate to "one who hath departed." Mr. Baker's friends say that this volume contains the finest and strongest work of his literary life.

It is complained in England that while there was never such a high average of fairly good and clever writing in that country, as at present, yet she cannot produce one good original comedy a year, while France produces at least a dozen. The sudden popularity of the novelist in England made the grave of the playwright. Just now physical science absorbs an unduly large share of English mental capacity.

Charles Beale, who for the past year or two has been not only ill but despondent, is doing a little literary work in the shape of a sketch of Sir Robert Lush, for many years one of the Justices of the Court of Queen's Bench and later one of the Lords Justices of Appeals. Sir Robert was concerned in the Tichborne trial, and he was noted for the prompt fashion in which he ordered the lynch in cases of personal violence. There could hardly be a better subject for Mr. Read's pen.

Hortley Coleridge said of the Arnolds one day that they were a most gifted family. When Miss Fox asked him what specially in their education distinguished them, he rose from the dinner-table, as his manner was, and answered, "Why they were suckled on Latin and weaned upon Greek!" He spoke of his father being one day in company with some celebrated man and some man who was not celebrated; the latter wore leather breeches, and S. T. Coleridge had the delight of observing him taking notes of their conversation with a pin in the creases of the leather!

When clever Caroline Fox asked Carlyle what parallelism there was between his own early history and that of the imaginary Fenwicksheld, he replied: "My advent was nothing out of the common: one extraordinary fact of my childhood was that after eleven months' tactfulness, I heard a child cry and astonished them all by saying, 'What nuns we Joech!'" If this was, indeed, the first utterance of the infant Carlyle, and that, too, before he was a year old, one cannot wonder that the occurrence was deemed "extraordinary" by the family.

As an instance of the absurd extravagance of language which is too fashionable nowadays, *The Pall Mall Gazette* mentions Mr. Waddington's statement that "even the sonnets of Shakespeare or Milton seem to lose somewhat of their grandeur when compared with certain sonnets of D. G. Rossetti's," which Mr. Waddington rightly admires. Translated into the language of sane criticism, this of course means that some of Rossetti's sonnets hardly bear being compared with those of Shakespeare and Milton. *The Gazette* naturally does not approve of this kind of dogmatism, and tells Mr. Waddington that the business of the editor of an anthology is to provide his readers with a pleasant spectacle, and not to tread on their toes and order them about while they behold it.

A FEW NEW BOOKS.

Phillips & Hunt have issued Volume III. in the Chautauqua Library of English History and Literature. This treats of the War of the Roses.

Professor Sharp's "Aspects of Poetry"—a volume which was reviewed in THE TRIBUNE of last Sunday—has been reprinted in a plain and convenient shape by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

"Benvenuto," by Emma Marshall (E. P. Dutton & Co.), is an English story of the calibre which is supposed to interest the average young lady in her teens. To quote Mr. Toots, "It's of no consequence."

Mrs. Brown & Derby have just published a ponderous "History of the State of Georgia" from 1850 to 1881, by Colonel J. W. Avery. The volume, which is crowded with details and ornamented by portraits, seeks to prove that Georgia was the chief factor in the American political revolution and the war which followed. The author was a Confederate soldier.

An "Analytical Index to the Works of Nathaniel Hawthorne" has just come from the press of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The little volume will be useful, but it would have been much more so if the references had been attached to the number of the page. Those, for instance, which send the reader to the "Note-Books" mention only the number of the volume and the date of the note. This hardly provides for swift reference. The index is prefaced by a slight but agreeable sketch of the "Novelist of Conscience."

In "Golden Poems by British and American Authors" (Jansen, McClurg & Co.) Mr. F. F. Browne presents a pleasant collection of favorite short poems. These include divers modern verses which appear in an anthology for the first time. One of these is Mr. E. C. Stedman's pathetically beautiful little poem "The Discoverer." Others new to collectors are from the works of Swinburne, Edwin Arnold, and Austin Dobson. The book has no mechanical daintiness, and not all the selections are in the best taste, but it will be a valued possession to the lovers of verse who are not likewise lovers of exquisite printing.

In her preface to the new edition of Theodore Parker's prayers just issued by Roberts Brothers, Miss Louisa Alcott says that one of these prayers seemed like "a quiet talk with God, as if long intercourse and much love had made it natural for the son to seek the Father . . . as freely as children bring their little sorrows, hopes and fears to their mother's knee Perhaps the secret of the worth and beauty of these prayers lies in the fact that his life illustrated them so truly that those who knew him felt he had a right to pray." The little volume is neatly printed and bound, and contains a short biography of Parker by Mr. F. B. Sunborn.

Fords, Howard & Sulbert have just issued, for a particular use, a pamphlet containing the Gospel of Mark in the three English versions—the King James version, the Anglican Revised version, and the American Revised version. The three are printed side by side, the English versions in small but clear type and the

American revision opposite in large type, thus presenting an excellent field for comparison. The pamphlet holds also a list of the Sunday-school lessons for 1882, with the Golden Text and page reference, and a chronological index of events in the life of Christ.

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